



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**2005 Department of Health Suzanne Richmond-Crum Award
Presented to John Manion**

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Health STD/AIDS Prevention Branch is pleased to announce that the 2nd Annual Suzanne Richmond-Crum Award will be presented to John Manion, Executive Director of Save the FoodBasket, at the World AIDS Day event on Oahu, to be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 1st at Our Lady of Peace Cathedral in downtown Honolulu. Mr. Manion will be present at this service to receive the award.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Suzanne Richmond-Crum, the former Director of HSPAMM: Hawaii Seropositivity and Medical Management Program, an HIV/AIDS medical care program of the STD/AIDS Prevention Branch. Suzanne passed away in August 2004 after serving as Director of HSPAMM for more than ten years. Those who knew Suzanne admired the pride and commitment she exhibited in all aspects of her professional life. This award was established in memory of the expertise, competence and compassion Suzanne demonstrated in her HIV/AIDS work and is presented to an individual in Hawaii each year "for outstanding contribution in providing HIV/AIDS services in Hawaii."

John Manion has worked in the area of HIV/AIDS in Hawaii for the past ten years, focusing his efforts on the care and support of HIV-positive individuals statewide.

Mr. Manion is the founder and Executive Director of the non-profit agency, Save the FoodBasket, Inc. This agency provides donated food and other household supplies to HIV positive individuals in Hawaii who do not have the financial means to purchase these items themselves.

In 1995, Mr. Manion founded and developed this grassroots organization which prioritizes the nutritional needs of HIV-positive individuals. The FoodBasket has filled a need that was previously missing in the HIV-positive community, nurturing its clients in the most generous, compassionate, and dignified manner. HIV-positive individuals are living longer and healthier lives because of the food and support they receive through the efforts of Mr. Manion and his staff and volunteers at the FoodBasket.

As a lawyer, Mr. Manion has also demonstrated his compassion and respect for others through his legal work. He has represented numerous individuals living with HIV in legal matters, charging no fees. Many disabled individuals enjoy the benefits of Social Security because of the commitment that Mr. Manion has demonstrated on their behalf by representing them.

(more)

John Manion is retiring next spring as Executive Director of Save the FoodBasket. He has, however, offered to continue his support and advice to the agency to assure its continuing success in serving the HIV community.

This award provides an opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Manion's courage, commitment and compassion to those who are HIV-positive in Hawaii. The Hawaii Department of Health joins with the community in honoring Mr. Manion with the 2nd Annual Suzanne Richmond-Crum Award on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2005.

The public is invited to attend the World AIDS Day service where John Manion will be presented with the award.

There are many activities occurring statewide for World AIDS Day, December 1st, including other Oahu-based events and Neighbor Island activities. For more information on all statewide World AIDS Day events, go to:

www.worldaidsdayhawaii.org

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